REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 and 15-19 are currently pending. Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice; and Claims 1 and 17-19 have been amended by the present amendment. The changes to the claims are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1-12, 15, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,657,362 to Giger et al. (hereinafter "the '362 patent") in view of the Ohno-Machado et al. reference ("Modular Neural Networks for Medical Prognosis: Quantifying the Benefits of Combining Neural Networks for Survival Prediction"); Claims 13, 16, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '362 patent and the Ohno-Machado et al. reference, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,305 to Huo et al. (hereinafter "the '305 patent"); and Claims 14, 18, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '362 patent and the Ohno-Machado et al. reference, further in view of Ravdin et al. ("A practical application of neural network analysis for predicting outcome of individual breast cancer patients").

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a method of processing medical image data to determine a prognosis of recovery, comprising: (1) obtaining segmented image data of a portion of the medical image data corresponding to an abnormality; (2) extracting at least one abnormality feature from the segmented image data corresponding to the abnormality; and (3) determining the prognosis of recovery based on the extracted at least one abnormality feature, wherein the prognosis of recovery includes an indication of the likelihood of survival of a subject. Further, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate a limitation recited in Claim 14.